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FAIL SCHOOL

Around 1,500 schools in state yet to submit applications to renew accreditation even as exams loom

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BOOZE BLUES

800 nabbed during traffic police's week-long crackdown against drunk driving in city; Rs 80 lakh collected in fines

PAGE 3

With 3,680 cases, Whitefield has recorded highest number of cyber fraud incidents in city, experts say this indicates sophistication of methods used in such scams

TECH CORRIDOR NOT SPARED FROM CYBER CRIME WEB

Only 24 of these cases have been resolved

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Bengaluru's Whitefield division, home to tech parks and multinational companies, has earned a dubious distinction— it leads the city in terms of cybercrime cases. According to recent police data, of 17,560 cases reported in 2024, Whitefield recorded the highest number of cybercrime incidents, with a staggering 3,680 cases filed. However, despite the volume of cases, only 24 have been detected, exposing the challenges law enforcement faces in tackling digital fraud.

Deputy Commissioner of Police for Whitefield Division Dharmender Kumar Meena said, "Among most of the reported incidents, around 40% of cases are cyber crime, with a significant number of victims being educated individuals. Despite ongoing efforts to create awareness about cyber threats, educated people, including those working in the IT sector, often fall prey to these scams. We are raising awareness by

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"Despite ongoing efforts to create awareness about cyber threats, educated people, including those working in the IT sector, often fall prey to these scams. We are raising awareness by visiting IT offices

—Dharmender Kumar Meena, Deputy Commissioner of Police for Whitefield Division

Go for the axe

Govt Industrial Training Institute's eagerness to seek nod to chop 49 trees to build new block on its premises has left citizens worried

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Government educational institutions and offices are expected to be a role model for others in preserving the environment by ensuring greenery in the city. The government is obliged to encourage the public to plant saplings to increase green cover, but what to do when a government institution itself wants to cut around 50 trees to facilitate construction of new buildings?

The Principal of the Government Industrial Training Institute, on Hosur Road near Dairy Circle, has sought permission from the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Forest Department to cut 49 trees on its premises to facilitate construction of a workshop and training of trainers (TOT) Block.

The BBMP Tree Officer and Deputy Range Forest Officer issued a public notice on January 31 inviting objections to the proposal sent by the Govt ITI Principal. The public has to send their objections within 10 days.

However, environmentalists have expressed shock over the decision to cut trees. They have urged the authorities concerned to find alternative methods to avoid cutting of trees.

"Bengaluru is known for government

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Soulful music

Join an enchanting evening of soul-stirring Carnatic music at the 2nd edition of Nada Sambhrama organised by The Nadathur Foundation. Enjoy captivating performances by the renowned Akkarai Sisters and the talented Sandeep Narayan, accompanied by celebrated musicians.
Where: Mangala Mandapa Auditorium;
When: February 15, 6:00 pm

02 Author insights

Join Santanu Bhattacharya and Anuja Chauhan for an engaging discussion on DEVIANTS, Santanu's latest novel. Dive into a captivating exploration of love, identity, and history across generations. Don't miss the chance to hear from these distinguished authors.
Where: Champaca Bookstores;
When: February 8, 5 pm

03 Book fest

Join the Crossword Book Fest at Nexus Shantiniketan Mall for two weeks of literary fun. Meet authors, attend blogger and influencer visits, enjoy storytelling and open mic sessions, and explore creative workshops and activity zones.
Where: Nexus Shantiniketan Mall;
When: February 7 to 176:30 pm to 8 pm

04 Theatre masterpiece

Experience the magic of Ranga Vartula's National Award-winning production, RABDI. Adapted from Naushil Mehta's Hindi play into Kannada, this celebrated performance has captivated audiences worldwide. With over 100 performances and critical acclaim, don't miss this exclusive opportunity to witness the theatrical brilliance. Limited tickets available.
Where: Rangashankara;
When: February 5, 7:30 pm

K'taka schools scramble for accreditation renewal

Despite multiple extensions, more than 1,500 schools are yet to submit accreditation renewal applications; many are hoping for another extension

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Despite nearing the SSLC and class examinations for the 2024-25 academic year, the process for renewing school accreditations in Karnataka remains incomplete. While the Department of Education has extended the deadline twice, approximately 1,500 schools have yet to submit their applications.

Since last year, the state government has digitised the processes for new registrations, initial accreditation, accreditation renewal for state curriculum schools, and the issuance and renewal of No Objection Certificates (NOCs) for schools following the central curriculum. For the current academic year, over 8,000 private aided and unaided schools have applied for accreditation renewal. However, 685 schools are yet to receive approval even during the second phase, while applications from 148 schools remain pending with district and taluk-level officials.

> **Government allowed temporary accreditation for current academic year based on affidavit guaranteeing compliance with standards by next year** –Official

8000+ private schools applied for renewal

Sources said that Karnataka is home to over 15,000 unaided private schools and around 6,000 aided private schools. Of these, approximately 11,000 schools had previously secured five-year accreditations and are not required to apply this year. Out of the remaining 10,000 schools, 8,637 have applied for renewal, with 7,804 schools receiving approvals. However, 685 applications have been rejected.

Awaiting third extension

Schools whose applications were rejected are now waiting for the Department of Education to announce a third extension for submissions. Many schools reportedly fail to meet the mandatory standards required for renewal. Department insiders suggest that some schools are banking on submitting affidavits committing to meet the standards next year, with the expectation that the government will grant temporary renewals.

Provisional accreditation for one year

An official said, "To renew their accreditation, private schools must submit 22 documents, including registration certificates, initial accreditation letters, subsequent renewal papers, tax receipts, and safety compliance certificates. Additionally, new requirements in recent years include land-use conversion for educational purposes, approved building plans, and fire safety facilities. Certain private schools have opposed these requirements and pursued legal action. As a result, the government has allowed temporary accreditation for the current academic year based on an affidavit guaranteeing compliance with the standards by the next academic year. Schools have thus been granted a one-year provisional accreditation, ensuring they can continue operations while addressing these requirements."

Complaint against Nirmala lacks substance: SC

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The Supreme Court on Monday dismissed an appeal contesting the Karnataka High Court's decision to quash proceedings against Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and others regarding alleged extortion through the discontinued electoral bond scheme.

Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar, forming the bench, determined the complaint lacked substance, being "based on assumptions". The Chief Justice of India noted, "It's a political battle being fought...".

The bench stated, "We are not inclined to interfere with the impugned judgement. The SLP (Special Leave Petition) is dismissed," after hearing submissions from Advocate Prashant Bhushan, representing appellant Adarsh R Iyer of NGO Janadhikara Sangharsha Parishath.

Previously, the Karnataka High Court had nullified the First Information Report, which originated from a local court's directive following Iyer's private complaint against Sitharaman, BY Vijayendra (Karnataka BJP president), Nalin Kumar Kateel and others, citing the complainant's lack of standing.

The SC bench on Monday provided clarification that "the impugned (HC) judgment will not come in the way of any person who has material evidence to show and prove a case."

When Bhushan suggested evidence would emerge during the investigation, CJI Khanna responded, "Sorry there has to be a prima facie case for that". He questioned the validity of vague allegations based on assumptions. Despite the counsel's objections, the CJI maintained, "Absolutely. I have gone through the complaint. It's all based on assumptions. This must have been paid because of this reason...".

HC rejects taxpayer's plea

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The Karnataka High Court has declined to nullify the Income Tax Department's prosecution against a taxpayer who failed to file income tax returns on time for Assessment Years 2012-13 to 2015-16, constituting an alleged offence.

Justice S Vishwajith Shetty, whilst dismissing Rajkumar Agarwal's petitions, stated, "Delay in the filing of the income tax returns would result in payment of the penalty, and results in prosecution as provided under Chapter 22 of the Act. Therefore, merely for the reason that the petitioner has paid the penalty levied by the Competent Authority for the delay in filing of the returns, the same does not exonerate the petitioner from being prosecuted."

The Department initiated four distinct private complaints against the petitioner under section 276CC of the Income Tax Act, having obtained proper sanction orders from the Competent Authority.

The allegations centred on the petitioner's deliberate failure to submit tax returns timely. The petitioner contended that he submitted returns upon receiving notice under section 139, paid the imposed penalty, and argued against criminal prosecution. He cited a lack of opportunity before sanction order issuance and claimed unavoidable delays due to his brothers' death. The department maintained that submission of returns does not prevent criminal prosecution. They highlighted the presumption against the petitioner under section 278E, requiring rebuttal before the Magistrate. The bench observed that Section 276CC applies when failing to comply with Section 139(1) or respond to notices under Section 142 or 148 within specified timeframes.

The ruling concluded that the petitioner must present evidence before the Magistrate to support his defence and counter the presumption under Section 278E. The court affirmed that paying penalties for delayed returns does not prevent prosecution under Chapter 22 of the Act.

B'luru's drinking problem: 800 nabbed in week-long crackdown

Traffic police went after those driving under influence and collected Rs 80 lakh in fines

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As Road Safety Month ended, Bengaluru's roads witnessed a dramatic crackdown on drunk and reckless driving, resulting in a staggering 800 motorists being caught in the net in just seven days. The traffic police, in a determined effort to curb the menace of driving under the influence, collected Rs 80 lakh in fines, averaging over Rs 11 lakh per day. This intense enforcement action highlights the persistent problem of drunk driving.

The special drive, conducted from January 27 to February 2, saw all 50 of the city's traffic police stations participating. Officers fanned out across the city, checking 62,300 vehicles, including both cars and two-wheelers. The sheer scale of the operation underscores the seriousness with which the authorities are treating this issue.

Drunk driving contributes significantly to accidents, fatalities

The police are not just focusing on punishment. Alongside enforcement, they are also emphasising awareness about traffic rules and the importance of responsible driving. Deputy commissioner of Police (South Traffic) Shiva Prakash Devaraju mentioned that the traffic police would revoke licences for violations such as wheeling and drunk driving. This stringent measure is being introduced in response to the rising number of fatalities and accidents. Although fines were previously imposed, many motorists disregarded the penalties. Now, repeated offences will result in licence cancellation.

Beyond the drunk driving statistics, the drive also targeted another dangerous traffic violation: speeding. A total of 228 cases of speeding were registered, resulting in Rs 2.3 lakh in fines. This dual focus on both alcohol and speed demonstrates a comprehensive approach to road safety, recognising that both contribute significantly to accidents and fatalities. "This special drive aimed to curb the menace of drunken driving and speeding to ensure road safety in Bangalore city," stated a traffic police official. "This drive will continue in the days ahead."

> **"Traffic police will revoke licences for violations such as wheeling and drunk driving to curb accidents**
>
> –Shiva Prakash Devaraju, DCP

The crackdown didn't stop with the initial seven-day drive. On February 3, traffic police in the West Division continued their efforts, focusing on a range of violations including triple riding, driving against one-way/no entry signs, wrong parking, footpath parking and riding, and using mobile phones while driving. This single day of action resulted in 1,235 cases registered and Rs 6,61,900 in fines collected. The most common offences were wrong parking (114 cases, Rs 67,600 fine) and driving against one-way/no entry signs (305 cases, Rs 1,54,600 fine). Even seemingly minor infractions like footpath parking and riding were addressed.

Constable booked for dowry harrassment

A woman has lodged a complaint at the Vasanthnagar Police Station, accusing her second husband and his family of dowry harassment, physical abuse, and mental torture. The complainant, Rekha, alleged that her husband, Manoj, along with his elder sister Pavitra, younger sister Meghana, and friend Vinay Kumar, had been pressuring her for dowry since their marriage.

According to the complaint, Rekha was previously married to Ningaraja, who passed away in an accident. She later met Manoj, and their acquaintance turned into friendship. Despite knowing she was a widow with two children, Manoj married her on August 7, 2024, in Nanjangud, and their marriage was legally registered on November 28, 2024, at the Vyalikaval sub-registrar's office.

However, two days after the registration, Manoj's family allegedly began harassing Rekha, questioning her about dowry and claiming that if he had married someone else, he would have received a substantial amount. Rekha initially tolerated the harassment, hoping for a change, but the situation worsened as Manoj allegedly pressured her daily for dowry and other financial benefits.

Matters escalated when Rekha checked Manoj's phone and discovered photos and videos suggesting an extramarital affair. When she confronted him, she was allegedly assaulted and had to seek medical treatment. —BMB

Indian Ocean rocks Phoenix Market City with electrifying performance

On the closing night of the first month, January 31, Phoenix Market City in Whitefield turned into a musical extravaganza as Indian Ocean, the legendary 35-year-old fusion rock band, delivered a high-voltage performance that left the audience enthralled. Produced by Akar Advertising and Marketing Pvt Ltd and Hummingbird Inc. the concert saw a massive turnout of music lovers, who vibed, clapped, and danced along to the band's iconic tracks. The event's hospitality partner was Novotel Bengaluru, Outer Ring Road.

The evening resonated with the soulful strains of Bandeh, Tu Hai, Iss Tan Dhan, Tu Kisi Rail Si, and Alam Alam, among other crowd favourites. The stage was an enchanting spectacle, engulfed in fog and illuminated with dramatic lighting, perfectly complementing the band's signature fusion of traditional Indian and contemporary rock elements. The rhythmic blend of tabla, bass guitar, and electric guitar created an immersive sonic experience that captivated the audience.

Indian Ocean, the trailblazing fusion rock band formed in 1990, captivated the audience with their signature sound. Known for their experimental approach, their music blends jazz fusion with Indian ragas, rock, and folk influences. Their performance seamlessly incorporated Sufi undertones along with themes of environmentalism and revolution. Over the years, Indian Ocean has carved a distinct space in the Indian music scene, earning widespread acclaim and a devoted fanbase for their evocative musical storytelling.

During an interview, Rahul Ram, said, "As we celebrate 35 years of our musical journey, tonight marks the second-to-last show of this incredible milestone for the Indian Ocean. Bangalore holds a special place in our hearts, it's where we played our very first concert, and since then, the love and support from this city's audience have been truly phenomenal. Looking ahead, we hope to continue receiving the same warmth and encouragement that you've always given us."

"To all music lovers out there- enjoy life, have fun! And to the young, aspiring musicians, remember: dedication and hard work are key. Nothing comes easy, so give it your all and chase your dreams with passion and perseverance," Rahul Ram added.

The audience at Phoenix Market City experienced a night to remember, where nostalgia met contemporary soundscapes, reaffirming Indian Ocean's status as a trailblazer in the music scene. The concert was not just a performance but an emotional journey through three decades of musical brilliance. As the final chords reverberated through the venue, the crowd erupted in applause, a testament to the band's enduring impact on the Indian music landscape.

— Sanjana CS

Sunday scrub and paint session revives campus

Around 120 volunteers and students spent their Sunday cleaning, painting benches and kerbs, and clearing dry leaves to transform Maharani Cluster University campus

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About 120 volunteers and students dedicated their Sunday to sprucing up a section of Maharani Cluster University on Seshadri Road. They focused on scrubbing and painting the worn-out benches and kerb stones, while also clearing dry leaves to create a cleaner and more welcoming campus environment.

The volunteers, under the guidance of Youth For Parivarthan, began scrubbing of benches at 7.30 am and completed the beautification of the campus by 1 pm.

"I am delighted with the beautification of the campus. I want to appreciate the volunteers of Youth For Parivarthan. Most of the volunteers are software engineers and they spent their holiday beautifying our campus. We want to extend this initiative to two of our college campuses. Around 60 students and professors have also participated in the beautification programme," said Professor C Usha Devi, Vice-Chancellor (in-charge), Maharani Cluster University.

The benches on the Maharani Cluster University premises that were faded (inset) are all good as new now

The volunteers cleaned the campus and painted the benches and kerb stones. "I am very happy to participate in the cleaning programme. All of us gathered at the campus at 7 am. We were divided into teams. We began the work after Amith Amarnath, founder of Youth for Parivarthan explained the purpose of the cleaning programme," said Aravind Kumar, a volunteer.

The campus witnessed a remarkable transformation after the volunteers had dusted, swept, and painted benches, footpath pedestals, and tree pedestals. Additionally, the volunteers carried out calcium coating on trees, contributing to their preservation and growth.

"We extend our gratitude to all the volunteers whose enthusiasm and hard work made this transformation possible. A special thanks to Maharani Cluster University for allowing us to contribute to a prestigious Government institution with such a rich legacy," said Amitha Amarnath, Founder of Youth For Parivarthan.

Appreciating the volunteers and students for spending their valuable time on Sunday to beautify the campus, Professor Shambavi Satish said that she felt very happy to see the benches clean and neat. "Our students are motivated by the volunteers of Youth For Parivarthan volunteers. Our students are set to take up cleaning programmes on their own in future at our other campuses," said Prof Shambavi Satish.

Expressing a similar opinion, Lakshmipathi CG, Professor (Sociology), at Maharani Cluster University, said that he wanted to appreciate all the volunteers and students who beautified the campus. "The campus badly needed beautification. Now the campus is clean and neat. It gives me a good feeling," said Prof Lakshmipathi.

Bharath Gowda J, co-convener of the Maharani Cluster University beautification initiative, shared that he was happy to dedicate his Sundays to cleaning and improving the campus. "I have been associated with Youth For Parivarthan for the last one year. I have participated in more than 20 programmes till now. I am happy to participate in cleaning programmes," said Bharath Gowda.

K-RIDE and BDA team up for afforestation

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Karnataka Rail Infrastructure Development Company Limited (K-RIDE) has entered into an MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) with Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) to implement compensatory afforestation (CA) and tree relocation for K-RIDE in BDA's Nada Prabhu Kempegowda Layout.

As per the document, BDA will identify suitable land parcels under its jurisdiction for compensatory afforestation and provide them to K-RIDE for plantation activities.

The scope of work includes but is not limited to, planting 30,000 native saplings under CA and transplanting 296 trees, including all physical works required at the site.

According to K-RIDE officials, the lack of open spaces in city limits is one of the reasons to approach BDA for the MoU. These activities were so far being carried out by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP).

"K-RIDE is also facing a shortage of land within city limits. While BBMP has been helping us with land parcels for compensatory plantation and translocation of trees, they do not have big parcels of land available in the city anymore. We require acres of land to carry out such activities. However, BBMP has land available for instance in the middle or side of the road. Thus, we have also approached BIAL (Bangalore International Airport Limited) for land. Moreover, there is a mandate of BDA that they have to also look at the biodiversity and green cover enhancement in Bengaluru," said a K-RIDE official.

Under the MoU, BDA will also identify suitable land parcels under its jurisdiction for compensatory afforestation and provide them for plantation activities. BDA will also facilitate transportation for the trees under transplantation, and provide suitable protection for the trees and saplings including necessary supervision. The agency will facilitate necessary approvals for afforestation and transplantation activities in coordination with other government agencies to carry out regular watering and manuring to maintain the afforested areas to ensure the survival and growth of planted saplings.

Each tree under compensatory afforestation transplantation shall be numbered and labelled as 'FOR K RIDE by BDA' with GPS coordinates. Under the agreement signed, BDA will also collaborate with K-RIDE to organise public awareness campaigns on the importance of afforestation and urban green cover. Apart from identifying the trees to be removed as part of the Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project and obtaining necessary permissions from BBMP, BDA will also provide funding for compensatory afforestation and tree transplantation as per the agreed terms.

whatsapp MIRROR
9591233247

Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Road woes
Meenakshi Kovil Street

The road on 4th Cross, Meenakshi Kovil Street, has been in poor condition for more than a year, causing distress to residents.

Urgent repairs
Munnekollal

The service road near Purva Riviera, Purva Fountain Square, and Rohan Vasantha near Munnekollal, beside the railway overbridge, has worsened due to heavy rain. The area urgently needs repairs.

Transport gaps
Maragondanahalli

Residents frustrated by the absence of bus service in Maragondanahalli, facing commuting challenges for years.

Woman alleges harassment, fraud after husband's suicide

A woman from Mahalakshmi Layout has filed a complaint against three persons, accusing them of harassment, property fraud, and abetment to her husband's suicide. The complainant, BN Pavitra, alleged that her husband, Somashekhar, was manipulated by his relatives, leading to his untimely death on December 23.

According to the complaint, Somashekhar had married Pavitra in 2005 under false pretenses, as his family allegedly misrepresented his education and financial status.

Over the years, she faced mental and physical harassment, which forced her to live separately with her children. In an attempt to regain trust, her husband transferred a three-story house in Kurubarahalli to her name, she said.

Pavitra alleged that her husband's relatives—Trimurthy MG, Nagaraj, and Siddharangaswamy—conspired to defame her and seize the property.

They allegedly spread false claims about her character, causing her father severe distress, leading to his death in December 2023. The accused also allegedly stole crucial property documents, gold jewelry worth ₹15 lakh, and financial records from her residence while she was away in Gokarna.

On December 22, Pavitra's husband reportedly came home intoxicated, fought with her, and later attempted suicide. Despite police intervention and hospitalisation, he passed away the next morning.

The complainant further alleged that the accused called media personnel before she could file a complaint, falsely implicating her in his death and coercing her to sign documents under duress.

The police are investigating the allegations, including claims of property fraud, harassment, and abetment to suicide.

(If you or someone you know is feeling suicidal, please know that help is available. Please call Arogya Sahayavani number 104)

BU student found dead in hostel room

A second-year postgraduate student of Kannada studies at Bangalore University was found dead in her hostel room on Monday. The 23-year-old Pavana HN allegedly died by suicide.

According to police sources, the incident occurred around noon and was discovered by fellow hostel residents, who immediately alerted the authorities. The Jnanabharathi police and forensic team visited the scene and initiated an investigation. The reason behind the suicide is yet to be determined.

Pavana hailed from Hebbalaguppe village in HD Kote taluk of Mysuru. A suicide note found at the scene read, "I trusted a friend who deceived me. I'm sorry, Dad, Mom. I love you."

Her body has been shifted to Victoria Hospital for post-mortem examination, which will be conducted upon the arrival of her parents in Bengaluru. **BMB**

Meal delayed, SOS ignored on flight, pushing passenger to brink of despair

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A healthcare consultant travelling from Bengaluru to Delhi allegedly had a harrowing experience aboard a flight on Sunday. Dr. Datta, an AI healthcare consultant, has borderline high sugar levels and carefully manages his diet, but on the flight, his pre-booked meals were delayed despite repeated requests.

He shared his ordeal with Bangalore Mirror and took to social media to highlight his concerns over the airline's service lapses.

Having traveled to Bengaluru for work, Dr. Datta was returning to Delhi on IndiGo's 3.20 pm flight. Anticipating his need for timely nutrition, he had pre-booked a sandwich, knowing from experience that non-pre-booked meals are often overlooked.

However, despite multiple reminders to the cabin crew, his meal was delayed, causing him discomfort due to hypoglycemia.

"We took off around 3:30 pm, and soon after, meal service began. When the crew came to my seat, they informed me that my pre-booked meal might be delayed due to an issue at Bengaluru. I was patient, understanding that delays sometimes happen," he said.

"After waiting for about half an hour, I politely asked if there was any problem. A crew member assured me that another colleague would serve me," Dr. Datta recounted. However, no food was served, and he began feeling jittery and weak from low blood sugar.

As he grew increasingly irritable, a fellow passenger noticed his distress and offered him a sandwich. "By then, I was already pissed off. I switched on the emergency call light but there was no response," he said.

To his shock, the call light remained unanswered for nearly 30 minutes. The situation escalated when, as the flight began its descent, he still had no response from the crew regarding his meal.

"Their complete indifference was infuriating and made me think: what if this neglect put someone in a real medical emergency in danger?" he said.

Around 5.40 pm, which was nearly 30 minutes before landing, a crew member finally approached him. "I told them again that I have hypoglycemia, but by then, I was too weak to even argue. They handed me a sandwich and black coffee, though I had requested black tea without sugar," Dr. Datta said.

He questioned the airline's preparedness for medical emergencies. "What shocked me was that the calling light at my seat went unanswered for nearly 30 minutes. With an empty seat beside me, I couldn't help but wonder how they would have handled a real emergency," he added.

Following his social media post, IndiGo responded, "Dr. Datta, thank you for taking the time to speak with us and allowing us to address the matter. We sincerely apologise for the delay in serving your pre-booked meal and the inconvenience this caused.

At IndiGo, we are committed to understanding and prioritising our customers' needs and comfort. Please be assured that we take your feedback seriously and have taken the necessary steps to prevent a recurrence..."

Eloping teens on wrong side of law

Rise in POCSO cases linked to teenage romantic relationships

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The increasing prevalence of teenage romantic relationships in Karnataka has led to a surge in cases registered under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, with young men often ending up behind bars due to the legal implications of their actions.

According to data from the Directorate of Child Protection, Karnataka recorded 2,456 POCSO cases between April and December 2024. Out of these, 1,206 cases (49.10%) were related to consensual relationships. Additionally, 485 cases (19.74%) stemmed from child marriages, while 765 cases (31.14%) were linked to adult exploitation, monetary coercion, force, and other social factors.

An official said, "Despite awareness campaigns conducted in schools and colleges regarding the POCSO Act, the growing number of cases each year has become a matter of concern. A significant proportion of these cases are attributed to young couples eloping or engaging in relationships without being aware of the legal consequences."

Understanding the POCSO Act

Enacted in 2012, the POCSO Act aims to effectively prevent sexual offences, abuse, and exploitation of children, while ensuring stringent punishment for offenders. Under this act, anyone under 18 years is classified as a child, and both boys and girls are provided equal protection under the law.

Consequences of teenage relationships

"Instances of young men unwittingly entering into relationships with minors often lead to legal complications once the girl's parents become aware of the relationship. These cases frequently result in the boy being accused under the POCSO Act. While some cases are resolved at the local level with mutual agreement, others result in jail time for the accused.

Once the matter reaches the authorities, the boy often faces immediate legal consequences, even if the relationship was consensual. The girl, in turn, is either placed in a shelter home or sent back to her parents," said a senior official from the Child Protection Directorate.

"Instances of young men unwittingly entering into relationships with minors lead to legal complications once the girl's parents become aware of the relationship. The boy gets accused under POCSO

City tops the list

Bengaluru has emerged as the district with the highest number of POCSO cases reported in Karnataka during the period from April to December 2024, recording 219 cases. Following Bengaluru, Shivamogga reported 166 cases, while Hassan and Mandya recorded 125 and 124 cases, respectively.

Mysuru documented 122 cases, closely followed by Chikkaballapura with 115 cases. Chikkamagaluru and Belagavi also saw significant numbers, with 112 and 103 cases reported, respectively. These statistics highlight the widespread prevalence of such cases across various districts in the state.

Challenges ahead

Legal experts and child protection authorities stress the need for continued awareness campaigns to educate teenagers and parents about the consequences of underage relationships. Additionally, societal support and guidance for minors are crucial to mitigate the emotional and legal challenges arising from such cases.

City still stuck on cruel, ineffective glue traps

Despite ban, sticky traps that harm wildlife and pets are widely sold, experts call for humane pest control, stricter enforcement and public awareness

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Despite being banned, glue traps continue to be widely manufactured and easily available. These traps, also known as sticky traps, are often marketed as a simple and effective solution for controlling rodents and insects. Typically made of a cardboard or plastic base coated with strong adhesive, they are placed in areas where pests are likely to roam. However, while they may seem like a quick fix, glue traps pose significant dangers not only to targeted pests but also to non-target animals, pets, and even humans.

Many rescuers and experts have highlighted the serious ethical and environmental concerns associated with their use, emphasising that they are neither humane nor effective.

Sara Athar, Communications and Outreach Manager, at Avian and Reptile Rehabilitation Centre said, "One of the primary concerns about glue traps is the extreme suffering they inflict on animals. When rodents or other creatures come into contact with the adhesive, they become immobilised and often struggle desperately to free themselves. This struggle can lead to broken limbs, torn skin, and other severe injuries. Animals trapped on these devices can take hours or even days to die, succumbing to exhaustion, dehydration, starvation, or stress. The process is neither quick nor humane."

Moreover, glue traps are non-selective, ensnaring any creature that comes into contact with them, including birds, reptiles, amphibians, and small mammals. "Even household pets such as cats or dogs can accidentally get stuck in these traps, leading to painful and distressing situations that often require veterinary intervention. Glue traps can have unintended consequences for the environment. Non-target species, including endangered or protected wildlife, can become victims of these devices, disrupting local ecosystems," said Subiksha Venkatesh, Lead Rehabilitator, ARRC.

Glue traps ensnare birds, reptilesm amphibians & small animals

Additionally, improperly disposed traps with dead or decaying animals can attract other pests and spread disease, creating a cycle of infestation rather than resolving the problem.

While glue traps may temporarily reduce the number of visible pests, they do little to address the root cause of an infestation. Rodents, for example, are prolific breeders. Removing a few individuals from a population will not prevent others from taking their place, especially if food and shelter remain readily available.

"Fortunately, there are humane and sustainable ways to manage pests without resorting to harmful glue traps. Prevention is the most effective strategy, starting with proper waste management by disposing of food scraps in sealed bins and keeping the surroundings clean to eliminate food sources. Sealing entry points such as cracks and holes in walls or foundations with caulk or steel wool can prevent rodents from entering. Regular cleaning, particularly in kitchens and pantries, helps remove crumbs and spills that attract pests, while decluttering eliminates potential nesting spots," said Athar.

In the last 3 years, the number of glue trap cases rescued by ARRC is 78. In 2022, 33 were rescued, 2023 over 15 and in 2024, 28 cases were rescued. In the year 2025 over two rescues have already been done.

Most of the rescues were black kites, snakes, Indian palm squirrels, shikra, jungle myna, barn owls and others.

"Storing food, including pet food, in airtight containers and securing compost bins further reduces the likelihood of infestations. If rodents do appear, humane catch-and-release traps provide a non-lethal solution, allowing safe relocation when checked frequently to prevent suffering. Additionally, encouraging natural predators like owls, shikras, kites, and snakes helps maintain ecological balance and naturally control pest populations. By adopting these ethical and effective methods, pest issues can be managed without causing unnecessary harm to animals," added Venkatesh.

How to help an animal trapped in glue trap

Avoid feeding: Do not force food or water, as it can worsen the situation.

Prevent further sticking: Use paper, corn flour, or tape to cover the exposed sticky areas of the trap.

Handle gently: Cover the animal with a cloth to reduce stress and move it to a quiet, safe space.

Seek professional help: Contact a wildlife rescue centre or animal welfare organisation for proper assistance.

Dispose responsibly: If the animal has died, safely discard the trap to prevent harm to other animals.

Highway threatens forest biodiversity

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A proposal for the construction of a six-lane highway on forest land in Belgaum has left locals worried over its potential impact on the forest and its biodiversity.

While the proposal has got a nod from the Karnataka Forest Department (KFD), locals allege that the proposed alignment passes through encroached forest land as per historical imagery. They say the highway, once completed, will lead to more encroachment of forest land.

The proposal is from the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI), which requires the diversion of 27.267 hectares of forest land to construct Belagavi Ring Road. The KFD has recommended the project and moved it to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) for final approval.

The Ring Road is proposed to connect SH-54 to NH 48 through five villages.

"The alignment of the proposed highway should have been avoided as the region is prone to encroachment. The highway is located close to the city and once completed, will lead to more encroachments of forest land. However, this aspect has not been considered by the forest department in its site inspection report. The report also does not talk about the already encroached forest area, which is part of the proposed alignment," said a local.

The Deputy Conservator of Forest, Belgaum division inspected the project site and filed a report. As per the report, the project will require the removal of 3,364 trees on the forest land, however, there is no mention of any encroachment in the proposed alignment of the highway.

The report highlights that the forest areas of the proposed alignment host diverse wildlife, including schedule I species such as the Indian pangolin, Four-horned antelope, Indian gaur, wolf, and Striped hyena, apart from mammals, over 80 species of birds and more than 25 species of butterflies.

"The alignment is selected in such a manner that it passes through minimum forest land without compromising safety and technical aspects. The alignment also suits the existing topography. Any other alternative would involve the acquisition of more private, government, and forest land," justified NHAI.

BM Trippin' Tales

Consumer Connect Initiative

Take off in Mangaluru: Heli-tours to showcase coast

The New Mangalore Port Authority (NMPA) in collaboration with the Karnataka Tourism Department, is mulling introducing a heli-tourism initiative aimed at catering to the growing influx of international tourists arriving by cruise ships. This long-anticipated project, which has been in development for several years, is now gaining momentum. The NMPA has identified a suitable helipad within its premises to serve as the launch site for these helicopter tours, offering short yet scenic rides that highlight the natural beauty of the Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts.

Sources said that the rise of cruise tourism in Mangaluru, particularly during the peak season from December to May, has created a demand for unique and immersive experiences. The introduction of heli-tours is expected to attract tourists seeking adventure and panoramic views, while also providing a significant economic boost to the local tourism sector. By showcasing lesser-known destinations and encouraging visitors to explore beyond popular spots, the heli-tourism initiative is poised to promote regional tourism on a broader scale.

Heli-tourism promotes regional hidden gems

Key highlights of the project include the dedicated helipad identified by the NMPA, as well as customised itineraries currently being developed by the tourism department. These itineraries will feature the region's natural beauty, historical landmarks, and rich cultural heritage. Additionally, a pricing structure for the heli-tours is in the works, with considerations based on tour duration and distance.

An official said, "The Karnataka Tourism Department is fully supportive of the initiative and is working closely with the NMPA to ensure its smooth implementation. Officials believe that heli-tourism will not only enhance the state's tourism offerings but also contribute to the overall growth and development of the region. With the increasing popularity of cruise tourism and the rising demand for unique travel experiences, heli-tourism is set to become a key attraction in Mangaluru. The NMPA anticipates a surge in the number of cruise ships docking at the port in the coming years, which will further fuel the potential of this venture. As the project moves forward, both the tourism department and the NMPA are optimistic that heli-tourism will open new opportunities for the region, positioning Mangaluru as a premier tourist destination on the global map."

Concerns raised over 'voluntary' relocation of forest dwellers

Wildlife activists say some of these programmes unjust as villagers left without livelihoods if they don't get land as part of compensation

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A few months ago, individuals and representatives of environmental and conservation organisations from various cities, including Bengaluru, wrote to the National Tiger Conservation Authority, expressing concerns over the relocation of forest dwellers from critical tiger habitats and reserves.

The letter had critiqued NTCA's order to the Chief Wildlife Wardens (CWLW) of the 19 tiger range states to take up relocation of villagers from tiger reserves on a priority basis.

The organisations said that NTCA's order disregards and disrespects customary, democratic, and constitutional rights of the tribals and other forest dwellers.

Now, wildlife conservationists and activists have raised concerns regarding some of the ongoing voluntary rehabilitation programs by the Karnataka Forest Department (KFD). They say these programs should be stopped immediately as forest dwellers are being relocated without proper compensation.

Relocations in these cases, despite being termed 'voluntary' have not been so. "Some relocation programs, for instance in Bhimgad Wildlife Sanctuary (BWS) and Kali Tiger Reserve are being carried out unjustly, without land as part of compensation. If the forest department can compensate for relocation with land parcels in some areas, the option should be available for villagers and tribes from other reserve forests as well. Those living inside forests for generations have only one skill to earn their livelihood – agriculture. However, this source is being taken away from them when they do not get a piece of land after relocation," said a wildlife activist.

A letter critiques NTCA's order on relocation to the Chief Wildlife Wardens of 19 tiger ranges

Notably, hundreds of families from villages inside MM Hills Wildlife Sanctuary in Chamarajanagar were relocated a few years ago with land as compensation. Similarly, villagers from Chincholi Wildlife Sanctuary were also relocated with acres of forest land.

However, the relocation program in some areas is being carried out with a payment of Rs 15 lakh to each family. Although villagers say they would have preferred the option of agricultural land.

Under the centrally sponsored scheme of Project Tiger, two options are given to people under the rehabilitation program. Under option I, a payment of Rs. 10 lakh per family is given, and relocation happens without any rehabilitation or relocation process by the Forest Department. Under option II, relocation and rehabilitation are carried out by the Forest Department with certain norms, including agricultural land procurement and development, settlements of rights, homestead land and house construction, incentives, and community facilities out of the Rs 15 lakh.

Not appealing

Experts cite remarks made by some of the NTCA members on the issue in a recent meeting. As per the meeting proceedings, some of the NTCA members informed that the package for voluntary village rehabilitation may not be appealing to all communities living in core/critical tiger habitats. The member suggested that the package for voluntary village relocation should be periodically revised based on inflationary trends to make it more attractive. He mentioned that people being relocated out of forest areas are usually reluctant to any change which needs to be factored in while incentivising voluntary village rehabilitation through adequate capacity and skill upgradation.

> **"Those living in forests for generations have only one skill to earn their livelihood – agriculture, which is taken away from them** –Wildlife activist

Activists say that wherever land in respect of voluntary village rehabilitation is not available as per requirement; there is a need to enhance the cash package available in the existing policy. NTCA members also suggested leveraging carbon markets to further incentivise the available relocation package.

BJP feud? Leaders set to visit New Delhi soon

A team of senior BJP Karnataka leaders, including MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal, Kumar Bangarappa, and former minister Ramesh Jarkiholi, is all set to visit New Delhi to meet national President JP Nadda and demand replacement of state party President BY Vijayendra, sources said on Monday.

According to sources, the team members are registering their objection to the election of 23 district Presidents in the state, maintaining that the election process was not transparent and done to ensure the election of Vijayendra to the post for another term.

The team of leaders are going to demand that under no circumstances, the name of Vijayendra should be announced as the state President and an election must be held for the post. They are further likely to appeal to the high command that one among them will contest against Vijayendra.

The team is also likely to meet the BJP MPs from the state who are against Vijayendra and former CM B.S. Yediyurappa. They are likely to take their support to present their case effectively before the high command. They are also contemplating demanding the scrapping of the list of new district Presidents.

Meanwhile, reacting to the developments of open rebellion, Vijayendra stated on Monday in Shivamogga that the damage has already been caused to the party by the acts of senior party leaders."The damage has already happened. In one week, it will be known who will be the state President and everything will become normal," he said. Asked about the reports that a faction led by senior BJP leader Yatnal is preparing to contest for the state President's position, Vijayendra expressed confidence in the BJP's internal democracy.

"For the past year, all our workers and senior leaders have been relentlessly fighting against this corrupt and immoral Congress government. Over the last year of my tenure as state President, the people of the state, our party workers, and our senior leaders and legislators have witnessed the work I have done. With everyone's support, I am confident that I will continue as the state President and strengthen the party further," he asserted. —IANS

Vijayendra's take

B Y Vijayendra on Monday expressed confidence about continuing to helm the state unit. He also hoped for a 'happy ending' in the outcome of the state presidential polls.
He agreed that the party suffered enough "damage" due to internal rifts. "BJP has internal democracy. If organisational polls take place in any political party in a systematic way, it is only the BJP. From the mandal level to district level to state president polls to national president elections are going about systematically, as decided by the national leadership," Vijayendra told reporters in Shivamogga. PTI

IN BRIEF

Constitution in Braille

Sankara Eye Hospital Bengaluru, marked 75 years of the Constitution, in collaboration with CII Young Indians (Yi) Bengaluru, launching a Braille-enabled version of the Indian Constitution. Governor Thawar Chand Gehlot launched the initiative that marks a significant step towards making the Constitution accessible to millions of visually impaired individuals.

This initiative aims to empower those who are blind or have low vision by enabling them to read and understand their rights and responsibilities as citizens. By providing a Braille version of the Indian Constitution, this project seeks to foster a more inclusive society, ensuring that everyone, regardless of their vision and ability, has equal access to foundational knowledge about their nation. —BMB

'Constitution gave us right to speak, not Manu Smriti'

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge on Monday invoked the Constitution's significance in empowering all sections of society, saying it was the Constitution, not Manu Smriti, that enabled the Finance Minister to present the Budget and gave everyone the right to speak in Parliament.

Leading the Opposition's charge during the debate on the Presidential address in the Rajya Sabha, Kharge launched a sharp attack on the government while warning against "Manuwadi" ideologies.

"It is because of the Constitution the Finance Minister got the opportunity to present the Budget, not because of Manu Smriti. We have got the right to speak because of the Constitution. Don't listen to Manuwadi," he said. Kharge was carrying a copy of Manu Smriti to the Upper House and asked if the Chair had read it fully. —PTI

Replacements for WPL

Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) have brought in Heather Graham and Kim Garth as replacements for Sophie Devine and Kate Cross respectively. Devine and Cross will not feature in the Women's Premier League (WPL) 2025 due to personal reasons, as per the WPL press release. Graham, the Australian all-rounder, has played 5 T20Is and has 8 wickets to her name from the same. Garth has represented Australia in 59 T20Is, in addition to 56 ODIs and 4 Tests. She has 764 T20I runs and 49 T20I wickets. Garth had previously played for Gujarat Giants (GG) in the WPL. Graham and Garth join RCB for INR 30 Lakh each respectively.

Earlier, the defending champions of the WPL, Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) reinforced their squad with a meticulously crafted strategy during the WPL mini-auction, a franchise release said. —ANI

Microfinance firms using rowdies to threaten people, their activities will be curbed: Dy CM

The Congress government in Karnataka stated on Monday that microfinance companies are using rowdies to harass and threaten people, and their activities will be curbed.

Speaking to reporters in Bengaluru, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar addressed the issue of harassment by microfinance companies, stating, "My government will take action to protect the poor. To correct these injustices, we are passing an ordinance. We are working on it and will grant more powers to the police. These activities will be curbed, and microfinance companies will no longer be able to exploit people."

He further added, "They are taking the law into their own hands, which is unacceptable. We are taking action."

When asked about the continued harassment by microfinance companies despite government warnings, he responded, "Several FIRs have been registered in Bidar, Belagavi, Mysuru, Bengaluru, Ramanagara, and other places. The Chief Minister has issued directives on this matter, and the Minister for Cooperation has also taken action."

"Orders have been issued, and the ordinance is ready. It will be sent to the Governor in a day or two. The poor must be protected, they cannot be exploited by microfinance companies charging exorbitant interest rates. We have received reports that these companies are threatening people and sending rowdies to their homes. To address this, we have established a helpline in every district," he stated.

"I urge all party workers to inform the helpline set up in the Deputy Commissioners' Office if they come across any such harassment. Once the CM resumes duties in a day or two, we plan to convene a meeting with Deputy Commissioners and Superintendents of Police," Shivakumar appealed. **IANS**

Public can file objections in 10 days

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

KAUSHIK JN

offices and educational institutions and other establishments that have vast open space where a number of trees are grown. If the authorities concerned go on expanding the structures by cutting well-grown trees, Bengaluru will lose green cover.

Institutions can think of shifting their expansion plans to the outskirts of the city or to other cities instead of confining the expansion plans to the existing premises," said Dattatraya T Devare, an environmentalist.

Expressing concern over the decision, Vinod Jacob of Namma Bengaluru Foundation, said the pattern to bypass approvals is alarming. "A recent census emphasised the need to safeguard trees and strengthen urban forestry rules, with fines for any damage to roots, branches, or bark. Granting permissions to cut trees that don't obstruct alignment when only pruning is needed, undermines these efforts.

The BBMP Climate Action Cell must collaborate with the Forest Department to protect Bengaluru's fragile environment. It's only February, and the city is already feeling the heat like summer," he said.

Coming down heavily on the government for not taking measures to protect trees in Bengaluru, Suresh Heblikar, an environmentalist, said that the city is losing trees, soil, wetlands in the name of development. "The future is bleak for Bengaluru," he said.

Demanding that authorities maintain the saplings planted, Balaji Raghotham, a lake activist, wondered why the authorities of Govt ITI did not plant saplings before applying for permission to cut 49 trees.

Cyber crime: It is complicated

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

visiting IT offices and placing awareness banners near malls. While uneducated individuals tend to lose smaller amounts, like ₹10,000 to ₹20,000, educated individuals often fall victim to investment frauds due to greed."

Recently, fraudsters impersonated bank officials and gifted a smartphone equipped with a cloning app to a techie, leading to a loss of ₹2.8 crore. Kishore Kumar, a 60-year-old Whitefield resident, received a call on November 27, from someone claiming to be Rohit Jain, a bank representative.

The caller told Kumar that due to earning significant reward points, the bank was gifting him a smartphone. On December 1, Kumar received a courier with the bank's branding and a mobile inside, along with instructions to insert his SIM card and start using it. Trusting the sender, he proceeded to use the phone.

However, on December 5, while at the bank, Kumar discovered that Rs 2.8 crore from his fixed deposits had been withdrawn. The police suspect the fraudsters used the phone to install a cloning app that allowed them to take control of his data, change his registered mobile number with the bank, and siphon off the funds. This incident highlights the growing sophistication of cybercrime, where victims are targeted using deceptive offers and technology to steal large sums of money.

Following closely behind Whitefield, South division, the second highest home to cyber frauds, tops the list with 2,443 cases. West Division stood at third place with 2,207 cases, followed by these cases East division reported 2,152. The North division reported 2,126, the South East division reported 2,169, and the North East division also witnessed significant cyber fraud with 1,785 cases. Meanwhile, Central recorded 951 cases, and the Cyber Crime Police Station (CCPS) logged 47.

As online frauds, scams, and digital threats grow, police are ramping up enforcement to tackle cybercriminals and protect citizens from falling victim to digital deception.

With the rapid adoption of digital payments, mobile banking, and online shopping, cybercriminals have found new ways to dupe citizens. Fraudulent UPI transactions, digital arrest, phishing scams, OTP frauds, and investment scams continue to be the most common cyber frauds reported across Bengaluru.

Human error is inevitable, and mistakes can lead to vulnerabilities. Given these challenges, it's essential for everyone—whether a homemaker, office worker, or professional in any field—to stay informed about ongoing scams and best practices in cybersecurity.

Digital dependence to blame

Experts believe that the rise in cybercrime is directly linked to the increased dependence on digital platforms, with hackers leveraging sophisticated tactics to gain unauthorised access to sensitive data. As cybercriminals employ Artificial Intelligence (AI) and social engineering techniques to deceive victims, the city's residents remain vulnerable to scams that range from job frauds and online shopping scams to cryptocurrency frauds and identity theft.

Chetan Anand, National Cybersecurity Scholar and Cybercrime intervention Officer, explains that recent trends in cybercrime indicate that even the educated class is falling victim to online fraud.

Several factors contribute to this growing concern. First, overconfidence plays a role, as many believe they are less likely to be deceived, leading to complacency and reduced vigilance when navigating online spaces. Second, the sophistication of cyberattacks has risen, with AI-powered scams making it harder to detect threats.

Further, Anand adds that a lack of awareness persists, as many educated individuals are not fully up to date on the latest cyber threats or how to safeguard against them. "The widespread dependence on technology, smart devices, and apps further increases the risk, creating more potential attack points for cybercriminals.

Lastly, human error is inevitable, and mistakes can lead to vulnerabilities. Given these challenges, it's essential for everyone—whether a homemaker, office worker, or professional in any field—to stay informed about ongoing scams and best practices in cybersecurity.

Citizens can also take proactive steps by enrolling in the AICTE NEAT 2.0 approved ISAC Cybercrime First Responder course, recognised by the Government of India, to better protect themselves and assist others in times of cyber trouble," he said.

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CHANGE OF NAME

Change Of Name

I, Avinandan Kumar, s/o Kishor Singh, hereby declare that my name has been incorrectly mentioned as ABHINANDAN KUMAR on my Driving License UP14200729335 The Correct name is Avinandan Kumar.

I, VIJAYKRISHNA RADHAKRISHNAN NAIR S/O Radhakrishnan Nair Padmanabhan Aged About 45 Years R/At M0273, M Block, Republic Of Whitefield, Divyasree Whitefield, B'luru-560066, have changed my name to VIJAYKRISHNA NAIR vide affidavit dtd:03/02/2025 sworn before notary Uday Kumar K, B'luru.

I Hakim Khan Ibrahim Khan S/O, Ibrahim Khan R/o #1120, 17th Main, 5th Block, Hbr Layout, Kalyan Nagar, Bengaluru, Pin: 560043, Karnataka, India have changed my name to Hakim Khan.

I, Arpita Atul Gupta D/O Atul Gupta born on 3rd Aug 1996 residing at Choodasandra, Bengaluru, have changed my name to Arpita Gupta vide affidavit dated 28th Jan 2025 at Bengaluru.

I Sreedevi kota R/O CANDEUR CARLISLE,FLAT NO 901, TOWER 2 BLOCK B,MAHADEVAPURA, BENGALURU-560048, have Changed my name to Sreedevi Somisetti.

I Mrinali Chowhan R/o D - 801, Mantri Elite, 174/18, Bannerghatta Road , Bengaluru - 560076. have changed my name to Mrinali H Chowhan

I, Saritha Chikmagalor Ashwath W/o, Harish Bm R/o # 402, 4th Floor, Sai Dwarka, Meenakshi Layout, Kammasandra, Electionics City, Bengaluru 560100. have changed my name to Saritha Harish for all purposes.

I, Aditya Prabhu Mitadar Venkatesh R/o No.36, Girls school street, Seshadripuram,Bengaluru 560020 have changed my name to Aditya Prabhu Affidavit Dt.03/02/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I Harsh Kumar S/O, Pratap Chand R/o D302,3rd Floor,arvind Skylands,surabhi Layout, yelahanka, bengaluru-560064 have changed my name to Harsh Kumar Rana Vide Affidavit Dated 31.01.2025 By A R Muneer Ahmed.

I Rajani B J W/o Aravind K, R/o 104,Synergy Sunshine,13th Main, Nobonagar, Bannerghatta road, Bangalore.560076 have changed my name to Rajani Aravind for all purposes

I, J.Deepa, R/o 144, 17th Cross, Gangamma Layout, Ashok Nagar, Bsk 1st Stage, Bangalore-560060 have changed my son name (minor) from Harish Ragavendra to Harish Ragavendra Karthick

I, Kalpesh.C.Shah, No-309, ambience platinum,opp police station,kr road, basavanagudi, B'luru 560004 have changed my minor son name from Ronin Shah to Ronin Kalpesh Shah for all purposes.

I, Sharada G W/O, Pradeep Shashidhar R/O No 1738,90th Cross,Behind Dayanand Sagar College, Kumarswamylayout, Bengaluru 560078 have changed my name to Sharadha Pradeep For All Purposes.

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HEALTH TIP: As refined foods are devoid of fiber and nutrients, they can lead to insulin resistance, fat gain and increased inflammation

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LOVES ME. LOVES ME NOT...

Dating apps could have negative effects on body image, mental health, research shows

Around 350 million people globally use dating apps, and they amass an estimated annual revenue of more than USD 5 billion.

In Australia, 49% of adults report using at least one online dating app or website, with a further 27% having done so in the past.

But while dating apps have helped many people find romantic partners, they're not all good news.

In a recent review, my colleagues and I found using dating apps may be linked to poorer body image, mental health and wellbeing.

We collated the evidence

Our study was a systematic review, where we collated the results of 45 studies that looked at dating app use and how this was linked to body image, mental health or wellbeing.

Body image refers to the perceptions or feelings a person has towards their own appearance, often relating to body size, shape and attractiveness.

Most of the studies we included were published in 2020 onwards. The majority were carried out in Western countries (such as the United States, the United Kingdom and Australia). Just under half of studies included participants of all genders. Interestingly, 44% of studies observed men exclusively, while only 7% included just women.

Of the 45 studies, 29 looked at the impact of dating apps on mental health and wellbeing and 22 considered the impact on body image (some looked at both). Some studies examined differences between users and non-users of dating apps, while others looked at whether intensity of dating app use (how often they're used, how many apps are used, and so on) makes a difference.

More than 85% of studies (19 of 22) looking at body image found significant negative relationships between dating app use and body image. Just under half of studies (14 of 29) observed negative relationships with mental health and wellbeing.

The studies noted links with problems including body dissatisfaction, disordered eating, depression, anxiety and low self-esteem.

It's important to note our research has a few limitations. For example, almost all studies included in the review were cross-sectional – studies that analyse data at a particular point in time.

This means researchers were unable to discern whether dating apps actually cause body image, mental health and wellbeing concerns over time, or whether there is simply a correlation. They can't rule out that in some cases the relationship may go the other way, meaning poor mental health or body image increases a person's likelihood of using dating apps.

Also, the studies included in the review were mostly conducted in Western regions with predominantly white participants, limiting our ability to generalise the findings to all populations.

Why are dating apps linked to poor body image and mental health? Despite these limitations, there are plausible reasons to expect there may be a link between dating apps and poorer body image, mental health and wellbeing.

Like a lot of social media, dating apps are overwhelmingly image-centric, meaning they have an emphasis on pictures or videos. Dating app users are initially exposed primarily to photos when browsing, with information such as interests or hobbies accessible only after manually clicking through to profiles.

Because of this, users often evaluate profiles based primarily on the photos attached. Even when a user does click through to another person's profile, whether or not they "like" someone may still often be determined primarily on the basis of physical appearance.

This emphasis on visual content on dating apps can, in turn, cause users to view their appearance as more important than who they are as a person. This process is called self-objectification.

People who experience self-objectification are more likely to scrutinise their appearance, potentially leading to body dissatisfaction, body shame, or other issues pertaining to body image.

There could be several reasons why mental health and wellbeing may be impacted by dating apps, many of which may centre around rejection.

Rejection can come in many forms on dating apps. It can be implied, such as having a lack of matches, or it can be explicit, such as discrimination or abuse. Users who encounter rejection frequently on dating apps may be more likely to experience poorer self-esteem, depressive symptoms or anxiety.

And if rejection is perceived to be based on appearance, this could lead again to body image concerns.

What's more, the convenience and game-like nature of dating apps may lead people who could benefit from taking a break to keep swiping.

What can app developers do? What can you do?

Developers of dating apps should be seeking ways to protect users against these possible harms. This could, for example, include reducing the prominence of photos on user profiles, and increasing the moderation of discrimination and abuse on their platforms.

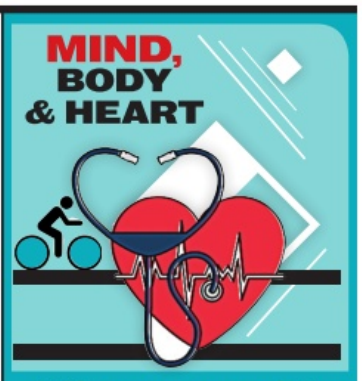
The Australian government has developed a code of conduct – to be enforced from April 1 this year – to help moderate and reduce discrimination and abuse on online dating platforms. This is a positive step.

Despite the possible negatives, research has also found dating apps can help build confidence and help users meet new people.

If you use dating apps, my colleagues and I recommend choosing profile images you feel display your personality or interests, or photos with friends, rather than semi-clothed images and selfies. Engage in positive conversations with other users, and block and report anyone who is abusive or discriminatory.

It's also sensible to take breaks from the apps, particularly if you're feeling overwhelmed or dejected.

(By Zac Bowman, Flinders University, The Conversation)



All you need to know about...

Sugary drinks & diabetes

Role of gut microbes

A team of US researchers has decoded the role of gut microbes in increasing the risk of diabetes after consuming sugary drinks. The study, published in the paper appearing in the journal Cell Metabolism, shows that metabolites produced by gut microbes might play a role.

Altered metabolite profile

In the study, the team identified differences in the gut microbiota and blood metabolites of individuals with a high intake of sugar-sweetened beverages. They found that high sugary beverage intake -- defined as two or more sugary beverages per day -- led to changes in nine species of bacteria.

Four of these species are known to produce short-chain fatty acids -- molecules that are produced when bacteria digest fibre. These are known to positively impact glucose metabolism. The altered metabolite profile seen in sugary beverage drinkers was associated with a higher risk of developing diabetes in the subsequent 10 years, said the researchers.

Mechanism

"Our study suggests a potential mechanism to explain why sugar-sweetened beverages are bad for your metabolism," said Qibin Qi, an epidemiologist at Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York.

"Although our findings are observational, they provide insights for potential diabetes prevention or management strategies using the gut microbiome," Qi added.

The researcher noted that more than in solid foods, added sugar in beverages "might be more easily absorbed, and they have a really high energy density because they're just sugar and water".

The team examined data from over 16,000 participants. In addition to changes in gut microbiota, the researchers also found associations between sugary beverage consumption and 56 serum metabolites. —IANS

Chai-Time

SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

John and Bob cycled from point A to point B. John cycled at 15 km/h for half the time and at 10 km/h for the other half of the time. Bob cycled at 15 km/h for half the distance and at 10 km/h for the other half of the distance. John's time for the trip was 5 minutes less than Bob's time. How far is it from point A to point B?

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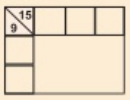
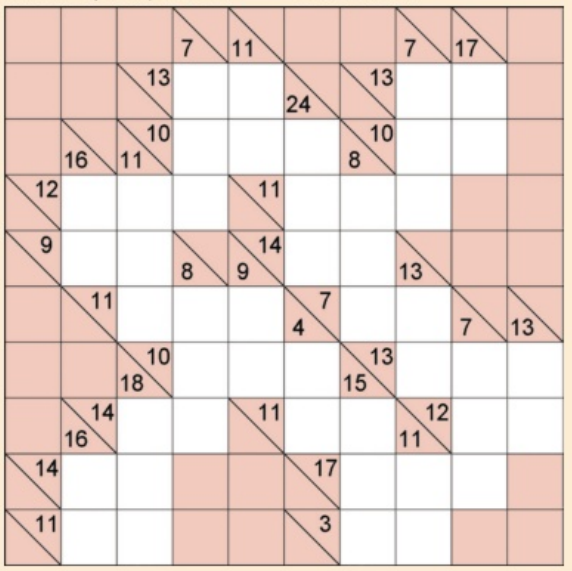
Kakuro

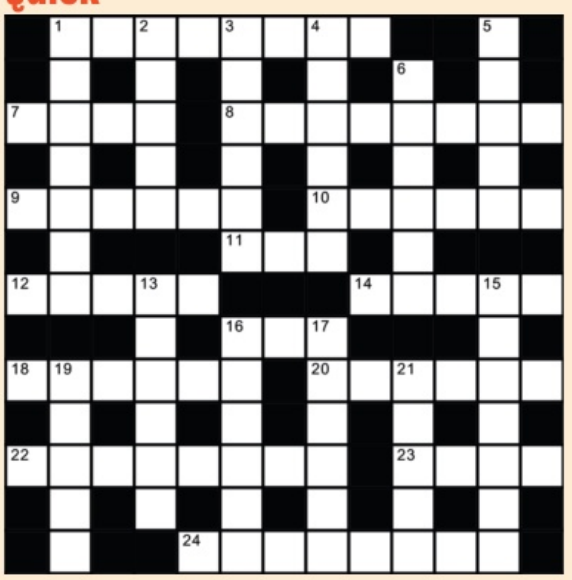
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Most motionless (8)
7 Stinging insect (4)
8 Non-metrical hymn (8)
9 Defer consideration of (6)
10 Things to be done? (6)
11 Greek Goddess of Night (3)
12 Prepares for publication (5)
14 Supply of goods (5)
16 Lamb's cry? (3)
18 Falls near Rajiv Gandhi National Park (6)
20 Delays or postpones (6)
22 Excavating or gathering in? (8)
23 So Big author Ferber (4)
24 Nonbeliever (8)

DOWN

1 Shattered violently (7)
2 Drive (5)
3 Compound plant? (6)
4 Grammatical structure (6)
5 Reigned or governed (5)
6 Most urgent or desperate (6)
13 Victor or master? (3,3)
15 Constant; continuing a long time (7)
16 Purchasing (6)
17 Leisurely, musically speaking (6)
19 Stones or boulders (5)
21 Armada (5)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: M EQUALS Y

ZCXCO DHRC DHRYW; PD MLB IL, MLB'NN ZCXCO SCY BT PZ YQC KLOZPZS.

Linemaro

You are the bravest in a thunderstorm I have seen

Mindchow

When it becomes more difficult to suffer than change -- then you will change

Joke of the day

Life of an avocado: Not yet, not yet, not yet, not yet, not yet, EAT ME NOW, too late.

Loop

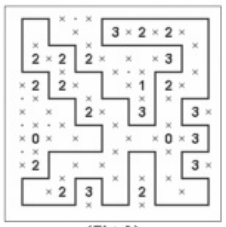
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

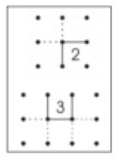
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

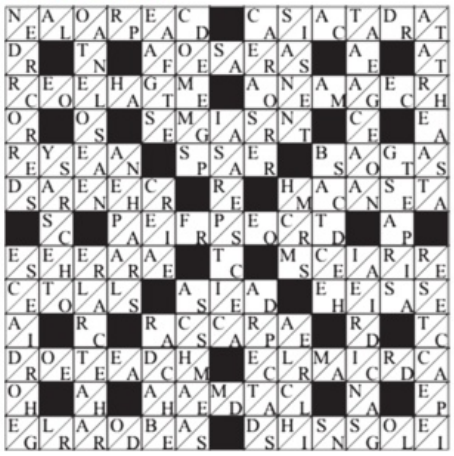


(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed

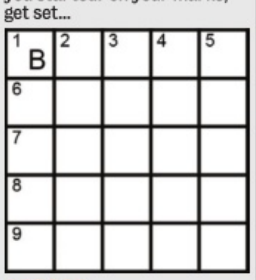
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Has Br; 6 Heart;
7 Olio V; 8 N seen;
9 Try CP

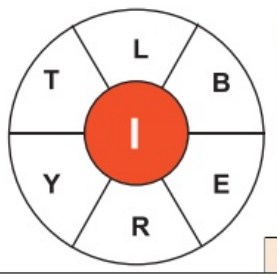
DOWN

1 C born; 2 V rare;
3 To any; 4 Helps;
5 Its hi

Mensapuzzle

Which number replaces the question mark and completes the puzzle?

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

10 Average; **11** Good; **13** Outstanding

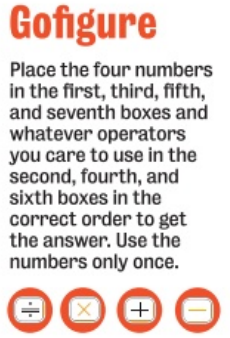
SudokuChallenge

			7		9	3		
						9	1	
	1	2	5	8		7		
		4		2				9
3			9		6			1
2				3		8		
		7		9	1	5	4	
	3	9						
		1	4		8			

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

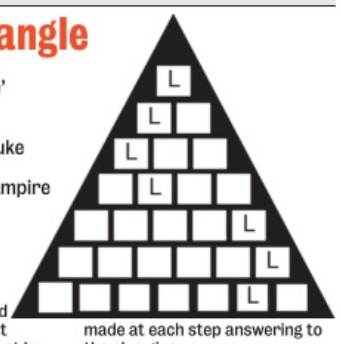
Differences: 1. Microphone is moved. 2. Nose is different. 3. Sleeve is different. 4. Portion of rope is missing. 5. Refs mouth is different. 6. Laces are different.

Riddler

Find the missing number. 8 4 1 2

Alpha triangle

1 The 12th letter
2 'Cherchez femme'
3 Boy
4 Garbed
5 Pertaining to a duke
6 Of the tail
7 Bram Stoker's vampire

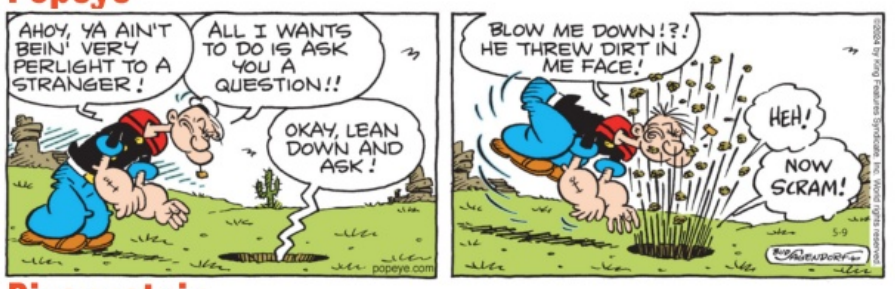


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye


AHOY, YA AIN'T BEIN' VERY PERLIGHT TO A STRANGER!
ALL I WANTS TO DO IS ASK YOU A QUESTION!!
OKAY, LEAN DOWN AND ASK!
BLOW ME DOWN!?! HE THREW DIRT IN ME FACE!
HEH!
NOW SCRAM!
popeye.com

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

I ONLY BUY HALLOWEEN CANDY THAT I DON'T LIKE...
SO I DON'T EAT IT ALL MYSELF
WHAT KIND OF CANDY COULD YOU POSSIBLY NOT LIK-
KALE GUMMY WORM?
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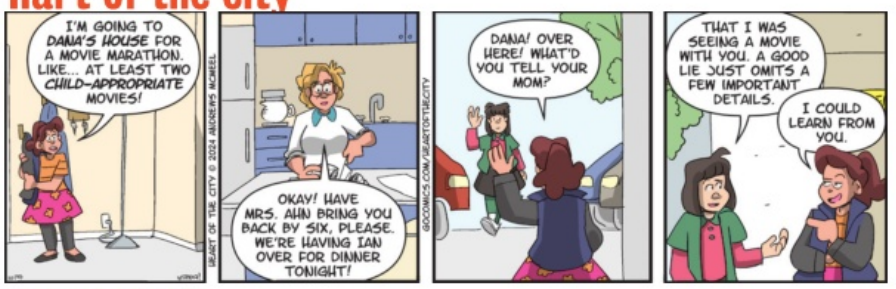
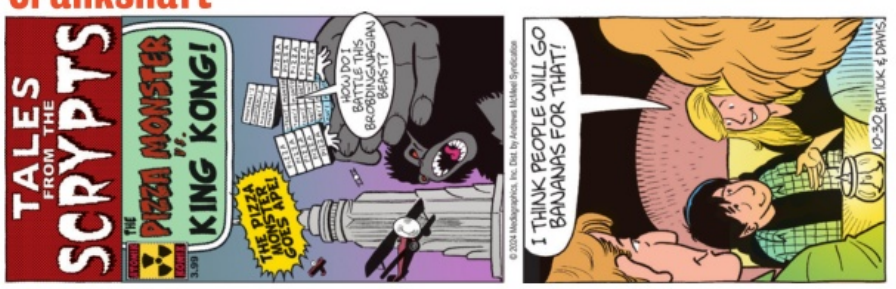
Bartlett

Hart of the city


I'M GOING TO DANA'S HOUSE FOR A MOVIE MARATHON. LIKE... AT LEAST TWO CHILD-APPROPRIATE MOVIES!
OKAY! HAVE MRS. AHN BRING YOU BACK BY SIX, PLEASE. WE'RE HAVING IAN OVER FOR DINNER TONIGHT!
DANA! OVER HERE! WHAT'D YOU TELL YOUR MOM?
THAT I WAS SEEING A MOVIE WITH YOU. A GOOD LIE JUST OMITS A FEW IMPORTANT DETAILS.
I COULD LEARN FROM YOU.
HART OF THE CITY © 2024 ANDREWS MCMEEL
@COMICS.COM/HARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft


TALES FROM THE CRYPTS
THE PIZZA MONSTER VS. "KING" KONG!
THE PIZZA MONSTER GOES MEATLESS!
HOW DO I BATTLE THIS BRONTOSAURUSIAN BEAST?
I THINK PEOPLE WILL GO BANANAS FOR THAT!
10-30 BATTUK & DAVIS

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may use your creativity at work or home, enhancing your social status. You will be able to control your expenses on unnecessary items, which may increase your savings. Lovebirds are likely to receive support from their family members for marriage. Students may hear good news regarding their academics.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you may feel dull, and your health may not be at its best. You may also experience anxiety and restlessness. It is advised to postpone important investments in business or real estate. Avoid rushing while driving and refrain from long-distance travel. Practising meditation may help you achieve a restful sleep.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, blessings from elders may bring you happiness, and your investments may yield profits. Losses may now be converted into gains, boosting your savings and bank balance. You may plan to invest in your child's future. Additionally, you may enjoy some delicious food at home. Health issues related to the throat, teeth, ears, or nose may be resolved.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may enjoy your work, and a promotion could come as a reward for your hard work. Helping a needy person may increase your social respect. Overworking your mind may leave you feeling exhausted. Due to workload, you might not be able to attend a family gathering. Your parents' health may improve.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, projects that were previously stalled may resume on their own. You may feel satisfied at work and plan a short business trip. A visit to a religious place may help maintain your inner strength. Your elders may guide you on the right path to achieving your goals.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may feel dull and experience health issues. It is advised to keep your mind calm and read documents carefully before signing them. Recovering money may be challenging. Avoid adventurous trips. Students should focus on in-depth study for success. Those working in exploration, occult sciences, or research may perform their best.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may feel relaxed after dealing with a messy situation. Your inner strength may help you make difficult decisions in your family business, leading to its growth. Helping the needy may enhance your social reputation. Students will have clarity in choosing their career paths.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may be busy at home. You may buy artefacts or creative items to renovate your house, increasing your social status. You may also invest in properties or fixed assets. Romantic moments with your spouse may strengthen your emotional bond. Singles may receive good news regarding marriage.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you may feel happy. Old health issues concerning elders may be cured. Stuck money may now be recovered, increasing liquidity in business. Employees may change jobs in pursuit of a promotion. Job seekers may find opportunities through a friend's reference. Those working in government-related sectors are likely to benefit.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you may focus on gaining knowledge and understanding the value of intellectual assets. Controlling your short temper may help you perform tasks smoothly. Your income may stabilise, providing comfort in your workflow. However, be cautious before making new investments in assets and avoid speculation at work. You may spend money on loved ones.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you may feel dull and struggle to adapt to the current situation. You might make silly mistakes, affecting your confidence. Your work efficiency may slow down, impacting your daily tasks. Project delays could affect your professional life. Before making any important decisions, seek advice from your elders.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may feel energetic and highly focused, allowing you to complete tasks quickly. Your subordinates may support you in starting a new project, which could bring profits in the near future. Short trips related to family matters may be expected. Job seekers may receive good news regarding employment.

KIDZONE

Hima Sumedh JS, 9 years, Anveshana Monessori

Ashwin T, 12 years, St. John's High Schoo

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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
Let J go @ 25 km./HR. For 1hr. & 10 km./HR. For 1. hour . Then distance =25 km. So Bob will cycle 15 km/HR for 12.5 km. (5/6 HR.) & 12.5 km. at 10 km./HR. (1.25 HR.) thus taking total time= 125 min . Hence Bob takes 5 min. more. So distance AB = 25 km.

RIDDLER
15 (7x3) - (6x1) = 15

BULL'S EYE
bier, bile, brte, rite, ter, tile, tire, trie, trle, yett

FAST FIVE
BRASH
RATHE
OLIVE
NERVES
CRYPT

STRIKE OUT
ELOPED
RENFAIR
RELATE
OSMART
DETACH
ETAS
SHERA
SANER
RYAN
GRADES

QUICK
STILLEST
MASP
SHELVE
SCOOPING
IRUPPU
BAA
EDITS
SANY
WASP
MMI
SANTICLE
SAGNOSTIC

MENSA PUZZLE
71. As you move down, numbers follow the sequence of Square Numbers, from 36 to 121, subtracting 10 for the second number, 20 for the next, then 30 etc.

QUOTE UNCODE
Never face facts; if you do, you'll never get up in the morning.

SUDOKU

6	4	5	7	1	9	3	8	2
7	8	3	6	4	2	9	1	5
9	1	2	5	8	3	7	6	4
1	5	4	8	2	7	6	3	9
2	9	6	1	3	4	8	5	7
3	7	8	9	5	6	4	2	1
8	2	7	3	9	1	5	4	6
4	3	9	2	6	5	1	7	8
5	6	1	4	7	8	2	9	3

ALPHA TRIANGLE
L, La, Lad, Clad, Ducal, Caudal, Dracula.

LOOP

GO FIGURE
Easy
3 + 7 + 6 + 1 = 17
Medium
9 + 5 - 4 - 8 = 2
Hard
2 x 5 + 6 \ 1 = 16

KAKURO

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Surprise at the Grammys

Some key moments from the show

All eyes at the Grammy Awards were on whether the most-nominated artist in the history of the telecast would finally walk away with the coveted album of the year trophy. She did. "We finally saw it happen," host Trevor Noah said, almost in relief.

Beyoncé winning for "Cowboy Carter" capped a night that turned into a tribute to a suffering Los Angeles, with city firefighters chosen to reveal the winner of the last award and speeches offering words of encouragement for communities devastated. The Grammys almost veered into a telethon; USD 7 million was pledged from viewers of the show.

It was also a telecast where the best new artist nominees like Chappell Roan and Sabrina Carpenter were given plenty of time to show why there's a deep well of talent coming up. And there was a shock return for The Weeknd, who had been boycotting the Grammys. — AP

Kicking it off with some local boys

Beyoncé and Lady Gaga were right there, as were Taylor Swift and Billie Eilish, but the honor of opening the Grammy Awards in Los Angeles was given to two local brothers deeply affected by the wildfires: Taylor and Griffin Goldsmith of the band Dawes.

They lost one brother's home along with their childhood home, instruments and much else. They've advocated for victims, raised money and were included in the FireAid benefit concert on Thursday.

Chappell Roan's advocacy

Chappell Roan was crowned best new artist and then used her speech to demand change in the music business.

"I told myself that if I ever won a Grammy and got to stand up here before the most powerful people in music, I would demand that labels in the industry profiting millions of dollars off of artists would offer a livable wage and health care, especially to developing artists," she said.

All hail the Swamp Princess

Doechii won the Grammy for best rap album, only the third woman to win in that category. And, with her mother by her side, she had a strong message for young Black girls. "I know that there's some Black girl out there, so many Black women out there, that are watching me right now, and I want to tell you: You can do it. Anything is possible. Anything is possible," she said.

"Don't allow anybody to project any stereotypes on you, to tell you that you can't be here, that you're too dark, or that you're not smart enough, or that you're too dramatic, or you're too loud. You are exactly who you need to be to be right where you are, and I am a testimony right now. Good night!"

The Weeknd returns to the Grammys

The Grammy Awards had a powerful way to prove that they've changed. They got a surprise endorsement by The Weeknd, who was last on the Grammy stage in 2017.

The pop superstar in 2020 slammed the Grammys, calling them "corrupt" after he landed zero nominations despite a megahit album. "You owe me, my fans and the industry transparency," he wrote on social media. Grammys CEO Harvey Mason jr, who started in his post in 2020, on Sunday said he understood the criticism and listed all the things the Academy has done to fix it.

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Asmin on YouTube

Roopa Rao, known for the movie Gantumoote, released her mini-feature movie Asmin on YouTube on January 27. She is overwhelmed with the response from the messages of appreciation she has been getting for the film.

"I wrote the script for Asmin during the lockdown. It was meant for an anthology to be bankrolled by PRK Productions but it did not happen due to the unfortunate death of Puneeth Rajkumar. Later, I decided to make the movie since the script was ready," said Roopa.

Roopa said that she decided to release the movie on YouTube after her friends advised her to do so. "My friends and well-wishers advised me to release it on YouTube to enable many people to watch the movie. We sent the movie for screening at various film festivals. We are very happy with the movie bagging many awards," Roopa said.

She said the movie revolves around the problems of people who suffer from depression.

"Some professors wanted to screen the movie at their colleges and institutions as it is about depression. My objective is to ensure the movie reaches more and more audiences. I cannot expect revenue or profit from all my movies. So, I released Asmin on YouTube," she said.

The duration of the movie is 45 minutes. Teju Belawadi, who acted in Gantumoote, plays Manu while Shweta Gupta plays Dr Neelima.

Psycho Jayant's new avatar

The team members of Mr Rani are on cloud nine over the success of the movie's trailer that has got more than 35 lakh views. The team has chalked out a plan to enable more people to watch the movie at theaters. They fixed the movie ticket price at Rs 99 and the movie is scheduled to release on February 7.

The movie is helmed by Madhu Chandra who handled the megaphone for Mummy Google Daddy and Vascodigama. TV serial Lakshmi Niwasa fame Deepak Subramanya plays the lead in Mr Rani. The poster of the movie – with Deepak Subramanya in Marilyn Monroe outfit – has received good feedback from the movie goers.

According to the director, the movie is about a youth from a village who comes to Bengaluru to realise his dream of becoming an actor but ends up playing the heroine in a movie. "How the youth struggles to play the heroine and how he comes out of the heroine's shadow is what the movie Mr Rani is all about," the director said. The movie also features Parvathy Nair, Srivatsa, Roopa Prabhakar, and Lakshmi Karant.